

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in the Russian Federation's Republic of Dagestan

May 9, 2002

The United States is saddened and angered by the deaths earlier today in an explosion during Victory Day celebrations in the town of Kaspiysk in the Russian Federation's Republic of Dagestan. Of particular concern is that this evil act of terrorism occurred on a holiday when Russia celebrates its World War II victory over fascism and at a time when our nations are allied once again in a war against global terror. Terrorism and the killing of innocents can never be condoned or justified.

On behalf of the American people, I extend my condolences to the families of the innocent children, veterans, and others killed, and I wish a full and fast recovery for those wounded in the incident.

Proclamation 7557—Mother's Day, 2002

May 9, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Mothers are central to the success of the American family. Their love, dedication, and wisdom touch countless lives every day in every community throughout our land. And their love and guidance of children help to develop healthy and spiritually sound families.

President John Quincy Adams once said, "All that I am my mother made me." President Abraham Lincoln believed, "All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother. I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life." These statements are just as true for the millions of Americans who credit their mothers for helping to successfully shape their lives.

Millions of American mothers are at work in communities across the United States, improving the lives of their families and their neighbors through countless acts of thought-

ful kindness. They energize, inspire, and effect change in homes, schools, governments, and businesses throughout our country. By their example, mothers teach their children that serving others is the greatest gift they can give.

Nearly 100 years ago, Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia helped establish the first official Mother's Day observance. Her campaign to organize such a holiday began as a remembrance of her late mother, who, in the aftermath of the Civil War, had tried to establish "Mother's Friendship Days" as a way to bring unity and reconciliation to our Nation. In 1910, West Virginia became the first State officially to observe Mother's Day. The idea caught on quickly; for just over a year later, nearly every State in the Union had officially recognized the day. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first Mother's Day proclamation, stating that the observance serves as a "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country."

On this special day and throughout the year, our mothers deserve our greatest respect and deepest appreciation for their love and sacrifice. I especially commend foster mothers for answering my call to service, volunteering their time and their hearts to aid children in need of a mother's love. To honor mothers, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 8, 1914, as amended (38 Stat. 770), has designated the second Sunday in May as "Mother's Day" and has requested the President to call for its appropriate observance, which, as the son of a fabulous mother, I am pleased and honored to do again this year.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 12, 2002, as Mother's Day. I encourage all Americans to express their love, respect, and gratitude to mothers everywhere for their remarkable contributions to their children, families, communities, and our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 14.

Remarks at a Reception for Senator Ted Stevens

May 9, 2002

Thank you all very much. I'm honored to be here with the Alaskan of the Century—just wondering which century. *[Laughter]* It's a high tribute to be called the Alaskan of the Century, and he's well on his way for laying the foundations to becoming the Alaskan of this century.

I really am honored to be here with Ted. I appreciate a lot about him. I appreciate he's a straightforward fellow. *[Laughter]* There's no question—*[laughter]*—you know where he stands, in the great Alaskan and, for that matter, the great Texan tradition. There's no—as we say down home, there's no bull about him. And that's good—and that's good. That's good for the Senate; that's good for the people of Alaska; and more importantly, it's good for the United States of America. It is essential that this man be reelected Senator from the State of Alaska. And if all goes well, he'll be the President pro tem of the United States Senate as well.

I want to thank his patient wife, Catherine. We both—the Senator and I both married above ourselves. *[Laughter]* I'm sorry Laura's not here. She's a fan of the Stevenses. She is in New York City—actually, she's in New Haven today helping one of our daughters move out of her dorm room. But she sends her best. Like Ted, I am really proud of my wife. She's done a fabulous job. She's been a great First Lady.

I appreciate Ted's love of his children. When I was in Alaska last, I had the honor of meeting some of Ted's offspring—the State senator I had a chance to meet. And tonight I had a chance to meet Beth as well, and it's great to see you. I'm glad you're here, Beth. Thank you for coming. *[Laughter]*

It's also great to be here with the Governor of the—or at least the next Governor of the State of Alaska, Frank Murkowski. I appreciate Frank's leadership, and I also really ap-

preciate Don Young. He, too, is a straightforward Alaskan who makes a big difference. It's about as fine a congressional delegation as there is. It's 100 percent good. *[Laughter]*

I know there are a lot of Senator Stevens' colleagues here, and I want to thank his fellow Senators for coming. I also appreciate George W. being here, the mayor of Anchorage, George Wuerch. *[Laughter]* Mr. Mayor, you're kind to come down, as are all the folks from Alaska who traveled a long way to be here. It's a great testimony to this good man.

I also want to thank Jimmy Hoffa for being here. It's a big deal for Jimmy to be here, and it shows what kind of leader Ted Stevens is. We were there in line; somebody said, well, you know this guy represent—Jimmy said he represents the greatest generation, and he does. Just this week I had the honor of renaming the Old Executive Office Building for Dwight David Eisenhower. I guess it shall be called the Ike. *[Laughter]* But in the front row was Ted Stevens. Not only had he served in the Eisenhower administration, he also served our Nation as a C-46 and C-47 pilot during that war. This is a man who has paid his dues to his country, a man who loves America, loves what America stands for, and a man who serves ably in the United States Senate.

During a time of threat to the United States, it gives me great comfort to know that up there on Capitol Hill is a person who understands that America must be ready and prepared, that we've got to give our troops the best equipment, the best training, and the best pay. And as the ranking member of the defense appropriations subcommittee, the United States military has got a great friend in Ted Stevens.

As well, I appreciate his understanding that the strategic threats to the United States are changing. And in order to protect our Nation and our friends from blackmail or from the attack by a nation that harbors weapons of mass destruction, this good country must develop a missile defense system. Ted Stevens understands that. It's important to have an advocate for the defenses of the United States and our alliance and what we stand for in the United States Senate. And Ted clearly can see the future, and for that